

Photo guide: coins, silver & gold

1. Set up (2 minutes)

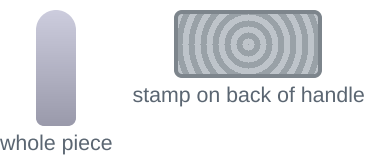
- Near a window in daylight, or under a bright lamp. **No flash**, which washes out dates and stamps.
- Use a plain background: a sheet of paper, or a dark towel for shiny silver.
- Hold the phone straight above the item. Fill the frame, tap the screen to focus, and hold still.
- Check that you can read the date when you zoom in. If you can't, we can't either.

2. Coins: front + back of every coin



- Photograph each coin on **both sides**. Older or "different-looking" coins matter most.
- For silver dollars, halves and anything pre-1965, add a **close-up of the mint mark** (a small letter, D, S, O or CC, near the date or on the back).
- Coins in holders or slabs: **don't take them out**. Photograph both sides and the label.
- Rolls or a big jar: sort by type, photograph each pile spread flat, and give a count. We'll tell you which coins need individual photos.

3. Flatware & holloware



- One photo of the whole piece, plus a **sharp close-up of every mark** (usually on the back of the handle or the underside).
- Marks we look for: STERLING, 925, maker names (Gorham, Towle, Wallace, Reed & Barton...). Words like "silverplate", "EPNS", "nickel silver" and "1847 Rogers" mean **not solid silver**.
- For a set, photograph one of each pattern and give the count.

4. Jewelry



- A whole-piece photo plus a **close-up of the stamp** (inside the band, or on the clasp). Use a second phone's flashlight from the side so the stamp casts a shadow.
- The letters around a number decide the value: "14K" alone is very different from "1/20 14K GF", "HGE" or "RGP".

5. Name and send

- Name photos **item01a, item01b, item01c, item02a...** (a/b/c = sides or close-ups of the same piece). Or put a numbered sticky note in each shot.
- Email them to **hello@estatecoindesk.com**. Several emails is fine, or send one Google Drive or Dropbox link.
- Include: the house nickname (for example "Maple St."), your sale date, and a short note on what's there.
- Optional but helpful:** a kitchen or postal scale weight in grams for sterling, gold, and bars.

Quick do / don't

Do	Don't
Hold coins by the edges	Clean, polish, or rub any coin
Keep holders and slabs closed	Use flash or shoot through plastic sleeves at an angle
Keep each coin's photos together	Mix up front/back photos of different coins
Set aside anything in a holder or slab	Price "old-looking" coins before you hear back

What happens next: we confirm we received your photos. If a date, mint mark, or stamp can't be read, we ask for exactly the shot we need. Within 24 hours of a complete set, you get a spreadsheet and a PDF: what each piece is, its melt value at today's spot, and which pieces to pull for a specialist. Your first lot is free (up to 30 photos).